

POINT THREE



The TocH magazine May 1978 10p



POINT THREE

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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The cover picture shows some of the highlights of past Dor Knap Cotswold Festivals. Elsewhere in this issue we list some of this year's plans for the Festival. Photos: Bob Broeder & Nigel Turner, Scott Shaw.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

VIEWPOINT

We are suffering from the worst epidemic of crime and violence in living memory. It should cause us all great concern.

The figures speak for themselves. From 1960 to 1975, convictions for murder more than doubled and for violence against the person went up fivefold. A recent press report gave the 1976 figures for violent crime on BR and the London Underground alone. They included 12 murder attempts (four of them successful); nearly 1,500 serious assaults; just on 200 indecency cases (including 16 rapes and a number of offences against children); over 100 attacks on railway workers. We can add to these muggings in city centres, the violence of hooligans and demonstrators and the soaring rate of robberies of all kinds. It is no longer possible seriously to claim that all this is due to a population rise or a greater willingness to report crime.

19th century and early 20th century reformers believed that crime was caused by poverty: if we pulled down the slums, we could blow up the prisons. It's hard to believe that now. While most forms of crime are more common among relatively deprived families, the huge general increase has followed the general growth of affluence.

For a generation, it has been fashionable to see crime as an illness, needing treatment, not punishment. Many liberal reformers now argue that 25 years is too short a time to test these theories and that shortages of public funds and social workers have denied them a fair trial. But Home Office research studies now appear to confirm (as many of us have long suspected) that neither prison used as 'treatment' nor the attempted rehabilitation of offenders has any detectable good results. This is true whether the 'treatment' is long or short.

We must face the fact that there is no known way of 'treating' most persistent criminals to bring about long term reform. Recent work by criminologists sees little substance in the views either that crime is a curable illness or that it is the direct result of deprivation.

Repeated imprisonment does not reform as the numbers in our prisons show. No answer to recidivism is in sight. As one writer put it graphically, 80% of first offenders never return to prison: the remaining 20% are seldom out of it.

Psychologists have little hope to offer. Most of them would agree that, while some violent crimes are committed by identifiably abnormal people, very many are not. The great majority of robberies of all kinds are carried out by 'people distinguished from others only by their tendency to rob'. One leading psychiatrist recently confirmed that 'very few criminals need or respond to psychiatric treatment'.

What then can we do?

There is no simple, long term solution. Standards will not improve until our early training at home and in school and our self discipline improve. We all face the long, hard slog of raising our own standards of behaviour towards each other so that these will spread in family, school and workplace.

In the short term, common sense suggests a number of things we could do to help. We should stop seeing prison either as a treatment centre or as a dustbin for all those we can't be bothered with. An absurdly high proportion of our prison population is made up of men awaiting trial or sentence, drunks and vagrants and boys and girls under 16 (there only because there are not enough secure places in community homes). We should, of course, greatly extend the practice of non-custodial sentences in suitable cases. The main justification for prisons is that some criminals need locking up so that the rest of us can live in reasonable security.

We should take a sensible view of deterrent punishment. Capital punishment for all murders would not substantially reduce the number of killings, most of which are unpremeditated. But it is arguable that its limited use would deter some very young terrorists and stop most criminals from carrying weapons. I certainly see the deterrent value for many lesser crimes of severe, enforceable fines related to means to pay and extending, as some have suggested, to the confiscation of eg. murderously driven motor vehicles. There are many serious and experienced people – not all Mrs Thatcher supporters! – who now accept the deterrent value of short, sharp, shock sentences for young toughs just embarking on a career of crime.

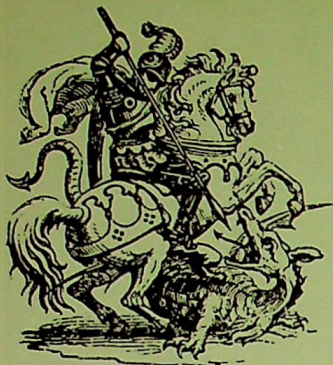
Most urgently, we should not begrudge the cost of a bigger and better paid uniformed police force. I find it almost incredible that, with today's crime rate, we tolerate a police strength figure – especially in London – well below an already inadequate establishment.

What do you think?

What's happening in ROSS- ON-WYE?

Ross-on-Wye (Hereford) Branch has close links with Dean Hill — a local hospital for both geriatric and mentally sub-normal patients. Some of the residents attend branch meetings when they can and branch members visit the hospital. This last Christmas, ten branch members and 20 patients staged a highly successful Nativity Play. When the play was over, the whole cast took part in a Carol singing tour of the hospital's geriatric wing.





St George and the Lesson of Chivalry

by Guy Brinkworth SJ

Many readers have found Father Brinkworth's 'Open Window' meditations helpful and we shall be printing some more, starting in the June issue. As a lead in to them, we give below the text of a sermon he preached during an all night vigil directed towards an increase of vocations to total Christian service and witness.

Who was St George whose ancient feast we have just commemorated? The patron of England, indeed, but also the patron of chivalry and of Christian self sacrifice and service. In the way of hard facts, little has survived the near 17 centuries which separate us from his martyrdom in 303 AD. He appears to have been a high ranking officer in the mighty Roman army, much favoured by Diocletian, his emperor. When discovered to be a Christian, favour turned to hatred and because the officer refused to compromise his conscience by worshipping the pagan gods, he was brutally executed, probably by his own men acting under orders from some local 'gauleiter'.

His mutilated remains were buried, according to tradition, in the town of Lydda, a day's forced march up the straight Joppa road from the very spot on which his Master had been crucified scarcely three centuries before. But by his fruits we know him. To the Christians of the Eastern Church he became known as 'the Great Martyr'. Churches dedicated to him sprang up ubiquitously and in the course of years half a dozen countries and localities acclaimed him as their patron.

The story of the dragon and the maiden in distress did not appear till towards the end of the millennium and so was obviously a pious and symbolic parable which attached itself to 'the Great Martyr'. Two sources seem to have converged on him. One a pagan and geographical one: the fable of Perseus and Andromeda, allegedly enacted at Joppa. (Ten miles from Lydda, a seaport so intimately linked in Christian memory with St Peter and St Paul and the initiation of the Christian 'explosion'.) The other was perhaps an even stronger influence and sprang from the vision given to the beloved disciple of the Woman and the Dragon, which at the time naturally became symbols of the Christian church and the fiercely invading Moslem armies. 'Then the Dragon was angry with Woman . . .' (Rev 12-17). Even later we meet the dragon in print in the famous Golden Legend by Blessed James Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa, a town of which St George was Patron. With Gutenberg's historic invention of movable type a century and half later, there was an efflorescence of translations and editions of the Golden Legend, including one in English by Caxton.

It was the account of the martyrs and saints in a Christian rendering of this book which helped to move another soldier (St Ignatius) recovering from his battle wounds in his ancestral castle at Loyola to turn to Christ and ultimately to found the 'Company of Jesus' — what he called 'the light armed troops', totally dedicated to the service of his 'Sumo Capitan', Christ, and to what Chesterton described as 'the celestial chivalry of the Captain Who bears His Five Wounds in front of the battle'. One is tempted to wonder whether when Inigo was later to speak of the standard of his divine king he had in the back of his mind some picture of the Cross of St George.

It was probably the English crusaders who brought the emphasis on St George back from the Middle East. So it is not surprising that when Edward III instituted the senior order of chivalry in England, the Knighthood of the Garter, during the second half of the 14th century, the order should have been placed under the patronage of St George together with the whole country and that soon after the chapel of St George was to be built in Windsor Castle in which the banners of the knights should hang.

We have seen that through the centuries almost a form of Symbiotic development has taken place between the reality of a brave and uncompromising martyr and a symbolic parable of chivalry and service. Despite all its aberrations, abuses and mal-motivations, the ideal of chivalry has always involved three great principles: to help the helpless and the weak, to resist cruelty, violence and oppression, and to fight against all the enemies of Christianity. We do not have to be very perceptive to realize how much we need the help and intercession of our patron today; so may St George, who is said once personally to have intervened in shining armour when English crusaders were hard pressed on Mount Olivet, come to the aid of our merry England; this green and pleasant land.

IN BRIEF . . .

■ Bishop Daly was touring the Gulf area in February. To everyone's surprise and delight, he reached Abu Dhabi in time to baptise the first child of Tubby's nephew, Tom Clayton. Most appropriately, the boy was christened Philip Byard Clayton!

■ Roy Boxall, a Hemel Hempstead member received a letter from the Consumers' Association addressed to 'H Toc Esq'. In due course he received an apology which pointed out that they themselves had suffered the same way. The editor of their journal *Which?* had a letter addressed to 'W Hich? Esq'. Have any readers got any good computer stories? (I hasten to add, before you all write to tell me, that it's not the fault of the computer!)

■ Anstey, Leicester, Branches raised £12,000 by means of a tote to pay for their new premises which were formally opened in 1973. For the past six years branch members have been helped in the tote running by some 40 non-members who acted as agents. The Anstey branches have now thanked these staunch friends at an evening celebration: the ladies' branch prepared a 'ploughman's supper' and the men built a commemorative plaque which was presented during the evening.

■ Penn, Wolverhampton, Branch recently had a double celebration of their 25th birthday. They first held a party for all members who had joined during the branch's first five years. A glass of sherry on arrival helped to liven the proceedings which included a 'Do You Remember?' session, and an account of the branch's current activities. The whole of the evening was so successful that it ended with a heartfelt 'we must do this again'. Later, the birthday was publicly celebrated with an art exhibition in which 29 artists (the youngest aged 12) showed a total of 140 pictures. This was not only a splendid occasion for members and local friends but also raised a large sum of money. Penn Branch had set themselves a target of £150 to provide road signs for the local Blind Institute's compound and on that birthday occasion they just about hit that target.

■ Some 50 members and friends were present at Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch's recent sixth birthday celebration. A hot meal helped everyone forget the snow outside and new staff member John Dickson, the guest speaker, further raised the temperature with his account of his experiences in South Africa.

■ For the first time for some three years Hythe (Kent) Joint Branch members have overcome their modesty to let us know what they are doing. The answer is 'plenty!' Their printed programme shows how busy are their regular weekly meetings with activities ranging from branch visits and guest nights to topical discussions and visiting speakers. Much of their work outside the weekly meeting is linked with the branch coach – used to carry hospital patients, give regular outings to OAPs and to the residents of the local geriatric hospital and for a host of other purposes. A very warm letter from a nursing officer at the geriatric hospital expresses appreciation for the regular service given with the branch coach and emphasises the pleasure of the hospital patients at being able to 'have a few hours away'. Well done, Hythe! Who else is hiding their light under the proverbial bushel?

■ Congratulations to Harold Binder of Higham Ferrers (Northants) Men's Branch who is this year's East Northants District Council Chairman. Harold read the lesson at the branch's recent re-dedication ceremony in the parish church which attracted some 100 members from the District.



*"If does the work of four housewives
- or eight husbands"*

'The vanity of being known to be trusted with a secret is generally one of the chief motives to disclose it.'

Dr Johnson

Family Matters

by Gina Vianney



LET'S SING A HYMN!

A lifetime of hymn singing has taught me the power of music in the banishment of evil. No wonder Christians have, since their very birth as a force for good, got together to have a good sing. A hymn is theology, an act of faith, an invocation of supernatural aid, and an attraction to others to come and join in.

Much of the power is better understood these days. Music reaches the subconscious mind. It is used in work with the mentally retarded and handicapped, with the emotionally distraught.

I remember the day my father was found dead at home. My mother and I had to wait for the doctor, to be sure. We couldn't either of us say much. I played his favourite hymns, and she sang. As a performance it wouldn't have rated 'Stars on Sunday', but it kept us sane. It saved us from screaming.

The power goes back much further than that. As a child I attended my father's churches, took part in his services, and confidently lived, unknowing that we were a little religious island in thrashing seas of iniquity. The crime rate around us was alarming. Drunkenness and depravity thriving. Yet there we were, with all the others of our creed, sturdily singing, 'Through all the changing scenes of life ...'

Later, during the war, I was evacuated. Homesick and still blissfully unaware of the reality of life, I found security and strength, as well as renewed unity and faith, when my father came to preach at the village chapel, and we could worship together again. At our divided ages, and in that social separation, there wasn't much we could say. But we could sing.

During nurses' training, I often had to walk the long dark road, hedged on each side and surrounded by open fields, between two villages. I was alone, and I was scared. Fear had me by the throat at times. So I sang. All the way. Chance observers maybe thought I was the village idiot. But it gave me courage. It took my mind off the length of the road, concentrating on the words: 'Will your anchor hold, in the storms of life ...' Maybe it was just my voice kept potential attackers at a distance safe for me; it's a standing joke in the house! I still felt safer with the likes of the Wesleys, Rudyard Kipling and Newman on my side.

Evil is there, in the world until it is banished or counteracted. We are given the means. The Devil is out to frighten us, working on our nerves and emotions, and imaginations. He picks on the weak and stupid, but he's also a stone in the shoe of the strong. We all need something good and noisy to send him on his way, to the Hell where he belongs.

Hymns are healthy; they exercise the lungs and release emotion. They give faith, by their very nature. The decline of the family around the piano, organ or harmonium has killed a real home ground for unity, but it can be replaced by modern means. Tapes and cassettes can reproduce all we want to hear.

I now live in a house big enough to be spooky when it's empty. I spend a lot of time alone. When it gets awesome, I get to the piano and have a banging fling with 'Love that will not let me go', or 'All hail the power ...' I'm not averse to a Christmas carol in August.

When my mind is anxious or fractious, hymns take me back to my roots and stabilise me. My neighbour is Jewish, but to date she hasn't complained of my evangelical zeal. Her house is lonely too at times. We remain friendly.

There's music on television and radio. There are the children's guitars. All music is a gift of God, to be used, not abused; to be enjoyed but not inflicted on others against their will. Sublimated emotion isn't healthy. If we're moved to feel something, we probably need to. Music stirs in the mind. It heals the soul.

It has other uses too. A retired Archbishop of Canterbury once lived in a boarding house where the landlady always used to sing heartily, 'Nearer my God to Thee ...' when cooking the breakfast! Still young enough to be impressed, he said approvingly, 'You like that hymn don't you?' 'Oh, it isn't that', she replied, 'I know that by the end of the third verse the eggs are soft boiled. If anybody wants them hard, I sing five!'



OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In December: Tom E Bishop (Mansfield), Capt Walter Ogilvy (Inner London District)

In January: Queenie M Lawrence (Pocklington Court)

In February: Sidney Craddock (West Hallam), Muriel Dunlevey (Scarborough), Monty Kerley (Hainault), Lilian R Meddins (Chepstow), Reginald F Presswood (Graeme), Walter G Turner (Clevedon)

In March: Frederick G Cornelius (Ilminster), Reginald C H Haves (Southend-on-Sea), Arthur E Lee (Bognor Regis), William G Bauman (Cirencester) Ruby E Howard (Elmstead) Bernard Spanswick (Newbury)

Bernard Spanswick, member of the Newbury Branch, who died two weeks ago at the age of 60 was such a remarkable character as to merit some special mention.

He contracted polio when very young and was severely handicapped for the rest of his life, every dragging step required will power. His courage and sturdy independence enabled him to live a very full life. He was blessed with exceptionally strong shoulders and is remembered in the Newbury area for the way in which he propelled himself in his hand operated wheel chair 25 miles on many of the days during the last war when he ferried metal parts around the area.

He became a member of Toc H in 1935 and from then was a corner stone of the Movement in Newbury and Thatcham, as he was also in the Polio Fellowship and the Society of Friends. The sheer grit which took him on pilgrimage to Talbot House and to Dor Knap will be remembered with his truly remarkable gift of friendship which brought him and his wife Hilda, crippled in a similar way, the reward of more close friends than most people in good health.

SGHD

Lincolnshire mourns the loss of its most prominent member, **Ben Chatterton**, who died at his home in Louth on February 4 aged 74.

After his family, his two loves were Toc H and cricket, in that order.

A retired school teacher, Ben came into Toc H at an early age, and continued as an active member throughout his life, taking office at branch, District, Area and

Ken Prideaux-Brune



February was the month in which I discovered what the initials WOCC stand for – Workcamp Organisers' Co-ordinating Committee. This group brings together, on a pleasantly informal basis, representatives of such organisations as IVS, the Friends, Pax Christi and Acorn Camps as well as ourselves. In February the group, for the first time, decided to meet for 24 hours, long enough for individuals to really get to know each other, and this meeting was held at Dor Knap. They were kind enough to invite me to join them.

This is a very effective group because everybody comes prepared to share with each other, fully and openly, their failures and difficulties as well as their successes. There was a, to me, remarkable similarity in the approach to workcamps by all these, in many ways dissimilar, organisations; and a similar appreciation of the value of the workcamps, as a growing and learning experience, to those who take part in them. This is, perhaps, evidence of the amount of sharing that takes place within the group and of the willingness of all those involved to learn from each other.

* * *

A visit to Rhyl in North Wales for a guest night, at which – glory be – there were plenty of your actual real live guests, allowed time for a tour of Theatr Clwyd in Mold with the architect of the building, Toc H member Bob Harvey. The flexibility and effectiveness of the technical arrangements in this new theatre are impressive, but even more impressive is the atmosphere which Bob has managed to create in the foyer and bar. The building communicates an immediate atmosphere of warmth and welcome and I was reminded by it of a visit to Crawley a few weeks earlier to see the progress of

the building of the new extension to Clayton House, and of Edgar Wallace's comment that the most important part of the new building would be the entrance hall. First impressions are important and it is surely essential that the first impression conveyed by any Toc H building is one of welcome.

* * *

Does your branch maintain a library, and if so how often do you thumb through it? At Staff Conference in March Tom Gulliver introduced (or re-introduced) us to some of the helpful and challenging thoughts contained in Toc H publications of long ago – most of them long out of print. We have just found here at Wendover one rather dusty copy of *Asleep or Awake?* a booklet reprinting articles by Barclay Baron published in the *Toc H Journal* in 1944. He writes of the need for Toc H, in a world of canned food, canned music and canned entertainment, to awaken the spirit of creativity which slumbers, too often unrecognised and unused, in each of us. 'Must we, need we go thus idle handed through a world of vivid beauty?' he writes. 'Will there be no moment of vision, no day that sets our creative mind afire and guides our hand to grasp a tool? Would that every one of us might be moved by the Spirit to express himself somehow, to join the ranks of the creators, for it is a divine office meant for any child of man.' That surely is a challenge which still speaks to our condition.

* * *

Which leads me neatly to the Cotswold Festival. Details of some of the artists who have agreed to take part are given elsewhere in this issue. We have been encouraged by the number who have already written for tickets, and by the rumours we have heard of coach parties being organised from as far afield as North Wales. There are just a very few spaces for caravans still available at the time of writing, so don't delay if you want one of these. The space available for tents is extensive, but the sooner you can get your booking in the easier it will be for the organisers. Even if you can only come for a day don't miss the chance of taking part in what promises to be a massive Toc H gathering, a real celebration of the creative spirit which Toc H can, and does, still release.

Regional levels and serving as Central Councillor.

He organised the annual horticultural show for 27 years; he was involved in the voluntary car service; he initiated a project for library books for the housebound; helped meals on wheels; was an active committee member of Age Concern; was local secretary of Mind and a member of Probus.

A meticulous Area Secretary, his records of Toc H in Lincolnshire dated back to the late twenties. A kindly man who always thought of others, he lived Toc H and his passing leaves a gap not easily filled. He was always helped and supported by his wife, Peggy, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

JWC

The Secretary of the Coupar Angus (Perthshire) Branch writes to tell us of the death last year of Frank Benzie, MBE, a few weeks before his 80th birthday. Frank was a Toc H builder for 38 years, very closely associated with much of the work of the Coupar Angus Branch – in particular with their long standing commitment to the old folk of the town. He was a printer by profession and was responsible among other things for Tubby Clayton's letterheads and visiting cards and for the Coupar Angus edition of 'Verb Sap'. He also did all the local branch's printing without charge for the whole of the 38 years of his association with them! For all these reasons, Frank will be sadly missed by the Coupar Angus Branch.

Reg Presswood of Graeme Men's Branch (Derbys) died in February. Reg had been a member since he joined the Weybridge Branch in 1928. He was always a staunch Toc H worker and a generous contributor and he will be sadly missed in Derbyshire.

'Monty' Kerley one of Hainault's (Essex) best known figures died recently at the age of 54. He had been a member of Hainault Branch for some 15 years and had personally attracted a number of people to the Movement. He starred frequently in entertainments for children and for the elderly, ran a club for the disabled and was often to be found gardening for the elderly and the handicapped. He will be greatly missed in the whole area. We send our warm sympathy to his widow and children.

We give thanks for their lives



Penn (Wolverhampton) Branch held a sherry evening and art exhibition to

celebrate their 25th birthday (see news item in 'In Brief').

Photo: Wolverhampton Express & Star



It makes you think... the 1978 Toc H projects poster. On the left is Stewart Dally, the young artist who did the illustration, with Fiona Davies, a school

friend. Plans for 1979 projects publicity are well under way, in close consultation with Regional staff.

Photo: Jim Waltham



A Toc H T-shirt became a symbolic flag when the chimney was completed on the new annexe to Crawley's Clayton House. The picture shows the builders – all

working under the Government's Job Creation Programme – at their happy flag raising ceremony.

Photo: Crawley & District Observer

INTERMEDIATE TR

A local scheme with TocH involvement

What is Intermediate Treatment?

Intermediate Treatment (I T) is a term that has been around for some years now, but most people would be hard put to define it exactly. Unlike 'meals on wheels' or 'home help', its meaning is not immediately apparent from the term itself, and, although I T arose out of the 1969 Children and Young Persons Act, the term does not appear anywhere in the Act.

In a nutshell, I T is a way of helping young people who have a variety of problems, usually by involving them in groups. It is called 'intermediate' because it comes in between on the one hand being supervised at home by a social worker or probation officer, and on the other hand going to live for a prolonged period of time in a children's home or community home.

The problem presented by the youngsters who are in I T groups are many and varied. Some may have committed offences and appeared before the court. Others may be truanting from school for long periods. Others again may be getting into explosive

emotional conflicts at home with parents or brothers and sisters. Almost all children go through difficult periods as part of the process of growing up. I T is aimed at the minority whose problems look like getting the better of them, and who are in danger of needing to be placed in full time residential care.

I T's main aim is to reduce the numbers of children going into children's homes, because full time residential care can often be disruptive and disturbing for an already damaged child, as well as extremely expensive to provide. In Wellingborough, it has been found that a wide range of I T facilities can reduce the numbers of children who need full time care.

For those children whose offences lead them to appear before the Juvenile Court, I T can be inserted as a requirement in a supervision order. Regional Planning Committees maintain lists of approved I T facilities, and the child's social worker or probation officer ensures that he or she attends one of the facilities in the regional plan.



Youth club based I T group during a break.

How Does it Work?

Nationally, I T has appeared in many and varied guises, thereby no doubt contributing to the confusion. In Wellingborough, however, I T has developed on two main fronts, the specialist I T groups and the youth club based groups.

1) The **specialist groups** have been running since 1974, and consist usually of eight to ten youngsters and three or four adults. The groups are normally mixed rather than single sex, and the youngsters are approximately the same age as each other. The adults who run them may be social workers or probation officers or volunteers; usually they are a mixture of the three.

In setting up this kind of I T group, considerable care must be taken to ensure that the adults are able to work with each other having similar standards and objectives. It's no good getting half way through a group and then two adults discovering they disagree fundamentally with each other on a particular issue. Having established a common modus operandi, the adults then move on to talk about how long the group will last (most operate for about nine months), how often it will meet (usually weekly), where it will meet, whether or not it will have any residential weekends or weeks, if so how many and how long, what age group to work with, how to involve the parents of the children, how the group's progress will be recorded, and dozens of other questions.

Next comes the task of selecting the group. Children are referred for I T from a variety of sources, the Juvenile Courts, Social Services Departments, the Probation Service, schools, youth clubs, their own parents, etc. The group of



Specialist I T group member adds his contribution to the list 'How we need to change'.

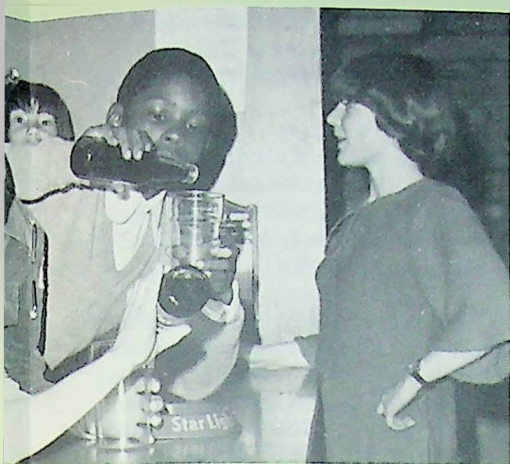


Youth club based I T group in the workshop.

TREATMENT ment

by Roger Cottrell

I T Specialist, Wellingborough Area
Office, Northamptonshire Social
Services.



adults attempt to choose ten or so children who have a variety of problems and will form a well knit group (unlikely if they all have the same type of problem), while at the same time including those whose needs are most urgent.

The adults then try to meet children and parents in their homes to tell them more about the I T group and to try to answer questions and allay fears and anxieties.

The group then starts, the first three or four evening sessions having been carefully planned beforehand. An evening session, lasting about two hours, may consist of an indoor activity (enamelling, painting, candle making, cookery etc), followed by group discussion over a cup of coffee, or it may be a trip to go swimming, roller skating or skate boarding. A weekend away usually comes early in the life of the group, camping during the summer, or youth hostelling, or (as one group did) a weekend at the Toc H Centre in Colsterdale. The purpose of the evening activities and weekends away is to establish a caring and intimate relationship between adult and youngster in which trust can be established and problem sharing can take place. Only after this relationship has been firmly established can the adult approach the youngster in sensitive areas, and start helping with the problem that brought him to the group.

A number of exciting projects have been undertaken by the specialist groups, projects that run for most of the lifetime of the group and give it an identity and sense of purpose and cohesion. One group built a number of canoes during the winter months for use in the warmer weather, another raised money to take spina bifida children to the seaside, another got involved in making a film,

another undertook a gardening project on the land surrounding the hall which they used, another raised money to finance a visit to Wellingborough's twin town in France.

Inevitably, group members come to feel great loyalty towards their group, and find it hard to accept that it has a limited life span and has to come to an end. In an attempt to provide youngsters with support after their own group has finished, I T groups have been started within community youth clubs to which youngsters can be referred, where appropriate, as a sort of half way house.

2) These are the **youth club based groups**. The first began in March 1977 and arose out of a joint initiative by Social Services and the Youth Service in Wellingborough. A sessionally paid I T leader is recruited and works with other youth leaders within a youth club or youth centre, but has a special responsibility for referred children. The children may have been previously in a specialist group or may be more suited to this type of facility rather than the specialist group. This is particularly true of younger aged children, say 10-13 years.

A leader meets the child at his home with the social worker, takes him to the club and ensures that he is involved in activities and accepted by other members. Subsequently, the child knows that the I T leader is available to provide help and support if required, but without being part of a separate, distinct group, which can be stigmatizing.

To date, these youth club based groups have been extremely successful, with hardly any snags being encountered in setting them up and running them. It is planned that further projects of this kind will be established within the town.

The Contribution of the Volunteer

Voluntary help has been used extensively in the running of I T groups in Wellingborough over the last four years, and has made an immeasurable contribution to their success. This is not confined merely to the providing of extra pairs of hands. The inclusion of volunteers in I T groups has been seen to provide an invaluable breath of fresh air into a group which, if it consisted only of social workers or probation officers, could become very inward looking and out of touch with the community.

Moreover, volunteers frequently live near the children in their group, and are sometimes contacted at times of crisis for that immediate piece of advice or support that can be so important. They are also more likely to remain in the same community than the constantly mobile social worker. And isn't there something reassuringly healthy about members of a community freely volunteering to help other less fortunate members of that same community?

Within the sphere of voluntary liaison, Toc H has been involved nationally, regionally and locally. Nationally, Toc H has made available facilities for use by Wellingborough I T group. Regionally, an East Midland Toc H staff member has visited I T residential centres in Northamptonshire and liaised with local groups. Locally, Wellingborough Toc H organisation has been involved not only in arranging holiday camps for disadvantaged children but also for the last three years has been actively involved in the running of weekly meeting, ongoing, specialist I T groups.

Nothing but good has come out of this working together of voluntary and local authority bodies, and it is to be hoped that this will long continue to be the case.



Specialist I T group members sharing in discussion group.

To Preserve and Transmit...

The February 1978 issue of 'Model Railway' has the second part of a beautifully illustrated article on model railways by Harry Cromack who is a member of Leatherhead Men's Branch.



Harry Cromack

Harry first met Toc H at the Old House in September 1917 when he moved up the line with a party to help make up the newly formed 781st Artisan Company. The idea was to train and trade test skilled men to join workshop companies in the forward areas. The first contact with the Movement made a deep impression on Harry.

In 1918 Harry narrowly missed being taken prisoner and, after a short spell as an air mechanic in the RAF, was demobilised and returned to his old job as a joiner in Leatherhead. Some years later, he was inspired by Barclay Baron to become a keen member of his local Toc H branch, in which he has served as pilot and as chairman. He was a regular worker at Dor Knap in its early days and helped to turn the old stable into a chapel.

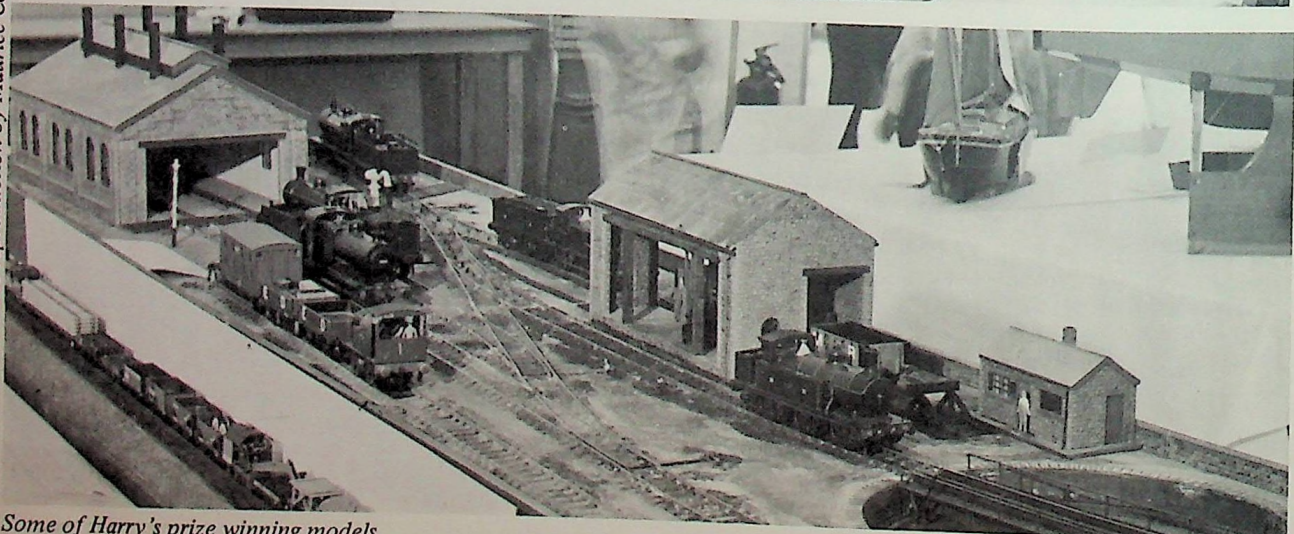
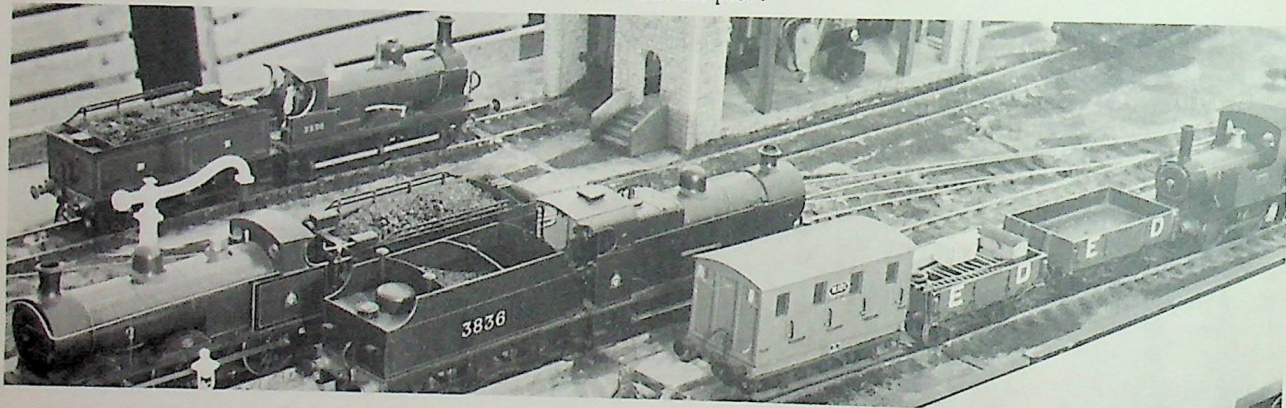
Meanwhile, Harry had taken up a long cherished desire to build first class models of period railway buildings, locomotives and rolling stock. His main interest lay with the old Midland Railway. His father had been night foreman at the Kirkby Midland Shed, so Harry had been able to observe closely most sides of railway life and even to drive a locomotive in the yards under close and friendly supervision.

At the age of 70, he packed up his joiner's tools and devoted his time to model making. He joined the Epsom and Ewell Model Club, formed the Kirkstone - Craven Gang and built with them a model of an 1895-7 northern Goods Yard which was highly commended at a Harrogate Club Show. The prize money helped with his next project - a replica of Kirkby Shed where his father had been a foreman. This model appeared at the London Midland Centenary Shows at St Albans, Luton and Bedford and helped raise funds for the St Christopher's Derby Railwaymen's Orphanage.

Since then, Harry's models have won a selection of major prizes and awards.

At the age of 83, Harry had a stroke which left him partially paralysed and unable to continue actively with his modelling work. To his delight, the newly opened York Railway Museum accepted his Kirkstone Collection and his Shed Yard, to keep and show as a memorial to Harry's father. An expert cameraman using the most modern processes, photographed the models in colour and these pictures were bound into a memorial book which Harry treasures.

This is a beautifully rounded story because Harry's Toc H conviction tells him that it is 'a good thing to preserve and transmit to future generations the spirit of those who laid our foundations in the past'.



Some of Harry's prize winning models



DORCAS – OPPORTUNITY NOT PITY

by Dorcas Munday

Dorcas Munday was born 29 years ago, and was from birth, a spastic. She has always viewed the world from a wheelchair, and cannot use her hands owing to their unsteadiness. Her book, written with humour and without self pity, is a plea from a very courageous and intelligent young woman to be treated, as far as practicable, like any able bodied person.

Her school days, spent in various residential establishments, were not particularly happy. She was, in all kinds of ways, made aware by well meaning, sympathetic but ignorant people, of her handicap. By some, it was assumed that physical handicap must also entail mental handicap. When she left school, she was very lonely until, in her late teens, she was introduced to PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied), a youth organisation for the shared activities of able bodied and handicapped people. PHAB has opened up new worlds for her: activities (including Continental visits), British holidays, various courses, and hilarious social gatherings, some being residential weeks near her Wellingborough home.

She has met various 'Royals', among them the Queen Mother and the Hon Angus Ogilvy, for whom she has a special regard for his kindness to her. Jimmy Savile also gets a special mention. In October 1967 she won the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award – the programme for this including exercises in Design for Living, Pursuits and Interest, and Adventure and Service. This was certainly no mean feat when one realises that she could not take notes and everything had to be dictated by her 'puppet', who acted for her.

The book is well illustrated, and by the time I got to the end I felt I knew Dorcas intimately. She pays tribute to her far seeing parents who have not held her back in any way. In her last chapter she gives a sober thought for the future. No one with her abundance of grey matter could do otherwise. She realises that some day her parents will not be able to look after her, and for so active minded a girl it would be sheer cruelty to lock her away into a 'home'. She says she has faith. It is up to us Toc H minded people to see that her faith is not misplaced. Good luck Dorcas!

Mary O'Neill

This book is published (price £1.50) by Midas Books on behalf of PHAB.

BE STILL then....

This Bordon letter has been written by the Reverend Geoffrey Milroy, who is our Vicar here at Wendover, and a member of Toc H. At Headquarters we enjoy our links with the Parish of Wendover, and we are delighted that Geoffrey has been able to share his thoughts with us. JHH

BORDON LETTER

The other day I was reading over again the account of the healing by Jesus of the man at the Probatic Pool at Jerusalem. It may be found in the opening verses of the fifth chapter of St John's Gospel, and it has always been a particular favourite of mine.

There was, we are told, this pool at Jerusalem near the sheep market called Bethesda, having five porches in which lay a number of sick people, blind, lame, and paralysed, waiting for 'the moving of the water'. This moving was caused by a sudden inrush of water from its subterranean source which bubbled up to the top of the pool and caused a disturbance of its surface, 'the moving of the water'. There was a tradition that the first person who entered the pool after this disturbance would be cured of whatever disease he was suffering from. This was the reason for the crowd of sick people who lay beside it, each waiting for the water to be agitated – each hoping that he would then be the first to step down into the pool after this took place.

There was one man in particular who had been there for 38 years, waiting for the chance to obtain a cure. His lengthy vigil must have made him well known, for he was pointed out to Jesus when Our Lord visited the place. Jesus, touched with pity, spoke to him, asking the sufferer if he really wanted to be cured. The man's reply at once revealed the reason for his long attendance. He must have been paralysed in some way because he explained to Jesus that he could not get to the pool quickly enough – he needed somebody to carry him and put him in the pool and this had never happened. If he could move at all it could only be by crawling – a snail's pace – and almost before he started to move somebody had stepped in ahead of him and obtained the cure. On hearing this, Jesus commanded him to stand, to take up the pallet on which he lay, and to walk. The paralytic obeyed the command and was cured.

Obviously, it is possible to comment on a number of aspects of this event, but it seems to me that there are two points of which Christ's followers can never have too many reminders. The first is that Christians are the means whereby our Saviour's work is now carried on in the world. Those who need redemption can receive it only from those who have accepted Christ as Master and Lord. Those who rejoice in the love and fellowship of Jesus, by their very acceptance of it, commit themselves to take the Good News of the Gospel to those who, while desperately needing it, are so often unaware of their need. And this may be done generally better by deeds rather than by words.

Secondly, we should be constantly reminded of the great number of people who need this love and have no one to give them the news of Christ. I am not here thinking only of the medically ill but of those multitudes who so urgently require care and friendship – and very often support and help because they are dispirited or disappointed or sad or lonely. Each one of us must know a person who needs to be shown the love of Christ as revealed by the sympathy and care of one of his followers. Especially is this a call and a reminder to those of us who have the privilege of belonging to Toc H, whose members are in a very special way pledged to help suffering people reach the cleansing waters.

GM



We send our warm congratulations to **Billie Bainton of Trimley (Suffolk) Women's Branch** who has completed 50 years of service with the Movement and is still very active locally. Billie joined

the League of Women Helpers in March 1928. She (and her husband, a Reading member from 1923) kept up active membership through a series of moves to

different parts of the country. She joined the Women's Section of Toc H when it was formed and between 1943 and 1963 served a number of stints on Central Council and CEC. Billie was one of the first 'staff deputies' and continued to hold an honorary staff appointment for a number of years. During her long membership, Billie has been responsible for setting up several new branches. 'Toc H', she says, 'has shown me how to live out my Christian principles in a practical way ...' Trimley Branch recently celebrated this great anniversary with a party and presentation.

YOUR LETTERS

GENERATION GAP?

Yes, it's another letter on the famous Toc H generation gap. This fantastic phenomenon has been well published. I've read letters on it, talked to my fellow members and discussed it at many Toc H meetings. Yet from my point of view, as a rather young and small cog in a very large machine, little has been done about it.

However, a Bill Bains (credit where credit's due!) brainchild ie Huddersfield Toc H Action Group (average age 18) has made a start. Newsome Branch (average age considerably greater than 18) invited us to a joint meeting. Undeterred by the fact that there were few guests to entertain, entertain they did! They warmly extended their welcome and we were amazed at the friendship we received – the kindness and the helpfulness were overwhelming. They helped us get two coaches free for our project which involves taking 80 mentally handicapped children from a Huddersfield school to Pickering on May 6. They also very kindly donated £10 for the project.

What is the moral of this story? If all the old established Toc H branches invited their younger counterparts to joint meetings and indirectly involved themselves in their affairs, then the generation gap would be non-existent.

Larry Wilmot
Huddersfield

CAPITATION FEES

Pant Joint Branch in Offa's Dyke District spent one meeting discussing the two articles in February's *Point Three* arising from the 1977 meeting of the Central Council and from a recent CEC meeting.

The unanimous opinion of the members was that the proposals put forward were contrary to the fundamental values of Toc H and unrealistic in their approach.

1) The suggested capitation fee seems to be completely contrary to the principles that have operated for the years gone by. The very idea of a membership fee would be abhorrent to those members who have found the system of self assessment, with full confidentiality between member and treasurer, to be a fair and just one.

2) The suggested payment to Family Purse of £1 per member per month as envisaged by Ken, or the £10 per member per annum as envisaged by Terry are unrealistic. In the North Wales and North West Region the branch quota is set at £5 per member per annum. At 31 December last in the North Wales Area alone there were 18 branches who

had contributed nothing to the Family Purse in the financial year. So is there any point in suggesting an even higher quota? Surely as a first step we should endeavour to have every branch meeting a reasonable quota – say £5 per member per annum. When we have achieved this – let us then consider whether an increase in the quota is necessary.

Peter Thomas
Chairman Pant Branch

THE TOC H STORY

First of all, I must thank those kind people who have written to me following the notice in December's *Point Three* about my work on the history of Toc H. They will all be acknowledged. I would be glad to hear from anyone else who may have information or even anecdotes they feel may be useful. Anything on the early days and the founder members would be especially welcomed.

This is a long term project; it probably won't surface for five or six years. It is also, as the Editor said, very exciting in that it has not been attempted before in its entirety, though particular periods have been done by Barclay Baron, Miss Carolynne Rauch and Miss Sally McCandish. I feel this is the right time to begin, while it is still possible to make personal contact with some of those who were in at the beginning and, through their eyes, catch the particular human perspective of that period. This is very difficult for those of us born later into very different times.

As a family man with a full time job, my spare time is limited. Also, the project itself, to be done properly, requires slow and patient working through all the archives and published material and cataloguing of all the information contained therein. Hence the length of time required. The final writing up will be in the form of a thesis and I envisage editing this into a more general history.

Best wishes to all members for 1978 and the future. Be warned! Your past is slowly catching up with you!

Hugh Jones
Banbury, Oxfordshire

THE FOURTH POINT

Re letter of Mayne Elson (warmly remembered in the North) published in the March *Point Three*, the Unitarian padre issue was resolved by Padre Dawtrey, the minister concerned. He interrupted a long discussion at Central Council 1928 to say that no further remarks were needed as the statements so far made had helped him to see that

from his own standpoint he could not be a Toc H padre as he could not subscribe to the implied beliefs. He apologised profoundly for having mistakenly accepted office, thus occasioning unlooked for controversy. He hoped he might be allowed to be an ordinary member. He was given a standing ovation and hands reached out to him as he walked, reconciled to all, out of the meeting.

Toc H owes a debt to that lovable Unitarian. He brought us up sharply against the depths of a faith we had taken for granted. He was also indirectly responsible for a firm restatement by leaders of Toc H that Council members are representatives, not delegates, and must at all times be ready to reconcile the known opinions of their constituents with new facts or information gleaned at the actual Council. This, by implication, rules out the false democracy of a referendum.

As a welcome relief, Tubby, ever thoughtful, invited those Councillors staying overnight, to dine with him, Rex Calkin and others, at the Press Club. I recall an informal conversation with a journalist there who had assisted a Dorset farm labourer to dig up a quantity of earth sufficient to enclose the urn containing Thomas Hardy's ashes so that the wish 'to be buried in his native soil' could still be given effect in Westminster Abbey. One of Hardy's biographers (Clive Rolland) records this, describing the funeral ceremony of 16 January that year, a few months before our historic Council, which, examining the Fourth Point, newly discovered the Third.

One of my treasured memories, prior to the Council, is of a branch meeting 200 yards from a steel works, the '10 o'clock shift' after two hours intensive discussion, going forth (and lucky to be employed) with cloth cap, 'bait' tin and enamel tea can to their work. These holy and humble men had put in three weeks of concentrated study of difficult Trinitarian doctrine with special reference to the Virgin Birth. Nothing published since then by priest or prelate can quite carry the hallmark of their devotion. I am honoured to have represented them.

Tom Baker
Middlesbrough

May I add to the various letters regarding the participation of others than Christians in Toc H? It is first of all nonsense to lump Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Moslems etc all together. The Christian faith is based on the Mosaic Laws and Jesus Christ was a Jew, so were his early followers. With some reasonable effort by both parties, past animosities could be forgotten and

a mutual understanding and tolerance could be achieved. A Hindu regards a Christian in the same light as a non-caste Hindu is beyond the pale. A Moslem arrogantly thinks of a Christian as an infidel. A Sikh is basically a Hindu only more aggressive about it (Sikh means lion and the faith was founded to counter Moslem conversions and ruthlessness in northern India). None of the basic Christian beliefs is shared by these religions, eg such a belief as compassion for the less fortunate is alien to Hindus, Moslems etc, but the romantic ideas associated with these, to us, strange religions and our general lack of knowledge obscures these facts. Anyone who has lived in the East and seen Hindus and Moslems when they rule the roost can only feel contempt for their religions and way of life.

Let us therefore differentiate between a religion that is part of our family, possibly a distant cousin if you like, and a total stranger. As a member of nearly 40 years standing, I feel that a Jew can be part of Toc H, with an open mind and one eye half closed, but a Hindu or Moslem, Sikh or Bhuddist etc can work with Toc H members on projects, but never truly accept any religious commitment to the principles of Toc H. I will no doubt be accused of not thinking fairly, but I do think realistically.

Max Reading
Michigan, USA

TIES AND BADGES

Could something be done to lengthen and widen our Toc H ties? I have two, one with the lamp motif, and one with the new symbol. They are both too short, and too narrow to look sartorially elegant.

Our ties are a good advertisement for the Movement, and the designs are excellent. Some of us are unable to wear tee shirts and patches at work, due to the nature of our jobs and also in many cases, our figures would not be suitable!

The tie, therefore, is the only way to identify ourselves and advertise, and if we got the tie dimensions right, more people would wear them.

Philip Boyle
Halesowen, West Midlands

Note: What do you think? We have, of course, lapel and blazer badges of different designs with which we can identify ourselves to others. To change the length and width of ties would mean negotiating a new contract with our suppliers and could involve a substantial increase in cost.

Editor

Don't be fooled by me

Don't be fooled by me.

Don't be fooled by the face I wear, for I wear a thousand masks, masks that I'm afraid to take off, and none of them is me. Pretending is an art that's second nature with me — but don't be fooled, for God's sake don't be fooled.

I give the impression that I'm secure, that all is sunny and unruffled with me, within as well as without; that confidence is my name and coolness my game; that the water's calm and I'm in command, and that I need no-one. But don't believe me. Please.

My surface may seem smooth, but my surface is my mask. Beneath this lies no complacency. Beneath dwells the real me in confusion, in fear and aloneness. But I hide this. I don't want anyone to know it. I panic at the thought of my weakness and fear of being exposed. That's why I frantically create a mask to hide behind, a nonchalant, sophisticated facade to help me to pretend, to shield me from the glance that knows.

But such a glance is precisely my salvation, my only salvation, and I know it — that is, if it's followed by acceptance, if it's followed by love; it's the only thing that will assure me of what I can't assure myself — that I'm worth something.

But I don't tell you this. I don't dare, I'm afraid to. I'm afraid your glance will not be followed by acceptance, will not be followed by love. I'm afraid that you'll think less of me, that you'll laugh at me, and your laugh would kill me. I'm afraid that deep down I'm nothing, that I'm no good and that you'll see this and reject me. So I play my game, my desperate game, with a facade of assurance without, and a trembling child within. And so begins the parade of masks. And my life becomes a front.

I idly chatter to you in the suave tones of surface talk; I tell you everything that is really nothing, and nothing of what's everything, of what's crying within me. So when I'm going through my routine, do not be fooled by what I'm saying. Please listen carefully and try to hear what I'm not saying, what I'd like to be able to say, what for survival I need to say, but what I can't say.

I dislike hiding. Honestly. I dislike the superficial game I'm playing, the phoney game. I'd really like to be genuine and spontaneous, and me. But you've got to help me. You've got to hold out your hand, even when that's the last thing I seek to want. Only you can wipe away from my eyes the blank stare of breathing death. Only you can call me to aliveness.

Each time you're kind, and gentle and encouraging, each time you try to understand because you really care, my heart begins to grow wings — very small wings, very feeble wings, but wings. With your sensitivity and sympathy, and your power of understanding, you can breathe life into me. I want you to know that. I want you to know how important you are to me, how you can be the creator of the person that is me if you choose to. Please choose to. You alone can break down the wall behind which I tremble. You alone can remove my mask. You alone can release me from my shadow world of panic and uncertainty, from my lonely person. Do not pass me by. Please do not pass me by. It will not be easy for you. A long conviction of worthlessness builds strong walls. The nearer you approach me, the blinder I strike back. I fight against the very thing I cry out for; but I am told that love is stronger than walls, and in this lies my hope. Please try to beat down those walls with firm hands, but with gentle hands ... for a child is very sensitive.

Who am I, you may wonder? I am someone you know very well. For I am every man that you meet, and I am every woman that you meet.

at the cotswold festival

'Five in a Bar', winners of the BBC National Barbershop Competition, will be bringing their special brand of close harmony singing to the Cotswold Festival. The group, which will perform on the Sunday afternoon, has made several appearances on television and has sung regularly in the Radio 2 programmes 'Among my Souvenirs' and 'Barn Dance'.

Also performing on the Sunday afternoon will be the **Launton Handbell Ringers**, who were featured on radio just before Christmas (and were included in 'Pick of the Week').

Saturday afternoon's programme includes the **East Midlands Early English Music Consort**, which has a very high reputation. In addition to their performance members of the group will be demonstrating their various instruments in a workshop session in the morning.

Folk singers **Peter Clayton** and **Chris Stern**, who will be performing on the Saturday afternoon, are well known to members in the South East Region where they have entertained at many Toc H gatherings.

John Hull's Occasional Singers need no introduction. Their most recent television appearance was on the Sunday before Christmas. They will be performing on the Friday evening (in the garden of The Court, Broadway) and on the Saturday afternoon; and they will also be holding an open rehearsal.

Moiria Huntley, who is responsible for the exhibition of paintings, is a professional artist living in Broadway who is regularly involved in the music and painting weeks at Dor Knap. Some of her work was included in a recent Royal Institute exhibition of water colours in London. Other exhibitors will be **Martin Wenham** (slate carving), **Margaret Adams** (calligraphy), **Marjorie Gibbard** (corn dollies) and **Betty Ogle** (embroidery). The various exhibitors will be demonstrating their skills during the mornings.

The **Moseley District Council of Churches Drama Group**, who will perform 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' on the Saturday evening, have been an immense success at previous Cotswold Festivals.

Advance Booking — £1 a day.
Tickets from Toc H Headquarters,
Wendover.

With the recent death of Mr Kirkpatrick, we have completely lost touch with our braille readers and braille copies are piling up in the office. The editor would much appreciate any information readers can give. Please write quickly if you know of a blind reader and let us know his name and address, where he got his braille copy and the address to which he normally passed it on.



Some of Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch members enjoying a recent Knit-in which raised £89.69. The resulting blankets and knee blankets were distributed to elderly and sick people in the area.

WELCOME

The following branches elected new members during March:

- 6 — Uckfield (m)
- 5 — Wymondham (j)
- 4 — Huddersfield Youth Action (j)
Group, Southampton Magpies (j)
Group, Wignore (w)
- 3 — Honiton (w)
- 2 — Clacton-on-Sea (w), Kennington
(Kent) (m), Loughton (m), New
Milton (j), Trimley (w)
- 1 — Aquarius (Warrington) Group (j),
Belfairs (w), Chingford (j),
Gillingham (m), Iver (m), Medway
& Sheppey District, Nailsea (m),
North Hinksey (j), Rushden
Afternoon (w), Springfields District,
Swansea West (j), Tiddington (j),
Torquay (m), Whitstable (w),
Woking (j)

A warm welcome to 51 new members

FOR YOUR DIARY

ROLL UP!

A Charity 'Celidh' Dance will be held at Dame Colet House, Ben Johnson Road, Stepney, London E1, starting at 7.45 pm on Friday 19 May. The Chingford Celidh Band will be there and we are told that 'Jack and Kay Kirby will be coming to help out musically'. Toc H members are heavily involved in mounting this charity function. Tickets from Mark 20 (01 874 9494) or Talbot House (01 709 2256).

COLSTERDALE

There will be a repeat of last year's highly successful **Naturalists' Weekend** at Colsterdale from 2 to 4 June. There is a full programme of walks on which we shall be accompanied by experts on botany and entomology and a special Saturday excursion. The area is rich in specimens of fauna and flora not to be found elsewhere and nature photographers can have a ball!

The inclusive cost of the whole weekend is only £6 and there are still a few vacancies. Applications for these should go at once to E Dransfield, 111 Hill Top Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham.

SPORTS DAY

This year, the Toc H Sports Day will be held in Battersea Park on 20 May. The organisers hope to encourage entries from anywhere in the country — already Southampton's 'Magpies' plan to field a strong team. Stewards are wanted urgently: offers and all enquiries, please, to Rohan Wijeratne at Mark 7, 15 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ (01 387 2927).

1978 SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

The Conference will take place this year on 23 and 24 September at the Pollock Halls of Residence in Edinburgh. It is hoped that the main speaker will be Canon Peter Delaney, Rector of All Hallows.

This annual training weekend is a major event in the Scottish calendar. Last year, when the speaker was Adrian Dudman, and the subject 'Extension', some 60 members shared the weekend at Skelmorlie Hydro Hotel, Ayrshire. We hope for even more this year.

Put the dates in your diary now!

Australia

This year's Christmas camp for children who would not otherwise get a holiday away from home was the best ever. It was based in the Toc H Conference Centre at Victor Harbour, a seaside resort some 50 miles south of Adelaide. Volunteers were recruited and trained by Toc H Youth Work Co-ordinator Cheryl Catt. There were pottery, canoeing, swimming, fishing, music, an old time dance and the warmth and friendliness of warden Viv De Boo and his wife Margaret.



Who are 'leaders' and who are 'kids'?

George Skewes (Mitcham, Victoria), recently honoured by the award 'Member of the Order of Australia' for his work on the Toc H emergency lights scheme has sent us the following account of the rapid spread of this great idea:

'We developed our own version of this scheme and the first alarm was installed on 30 June 1971. This was followed by others and the idea was such a success that it received the blessing of the Victoria Executive and the Police Department. Later, the Australian Executive adopted it as a National Project.'

'As the result of experience with the needs of various applicants we developed a variety of circuits and types of equipment to suit the circumstances. These included the use of audible alarms for the blind people and for inter-house operation, and multiple switching and indication for group flats. The latter has now been adopted by the Housing Commission for their 12 storey high rise buildings which have 204 units in each structure.

'By invitation, our Secretary, Ron MacDonald has visited Lions Club, Apex, Rotary, etc telling them about our work and, as a result, alarms have been installed and maintained in 138 country towns in addition to several in the Metropolitan area. This service has now been extended to 20 towns in New South Wales. Most of these clubs are happy to reimburse us for the cost of the equipment supplied. To date, we have spent over \$43,000 on the project and we have 5,500 installations to our credit. Elsewhere in Australia, Toc H has promoted the scheme too, probably about 3,000 units in all.

'We rely on rail transport for the despatch of all our equipment and the Premier of Victoria, Mr Hamer, has granted us free carriage, which results in a saving of over \$400 per annum.'

'The Mitcham Branch workshop has been responsible for the whole of the Victorian output for the assembly, despatch and recording of all equipment. The work nights are very happy meetings notwithstanding the fact that the "boys" are hard driven by jobbie, but they are encouraged through with suitable recorded music. We terminate meetings with supper. There has been a tremendous effort expended to reach the above financial backing and output of work, and one might ask - "what is the result?" There is seldom a week passes but someone reports that an alarm has been of service to a sick person. Some lives have been saved because immediate help has been forthcoming, and there is a general feeling of security among the elderly people living alone. We are satisfied that our alarms have proved a valuable community project.'



A Victor Harbour member leads the kids in a 'hokey cokey'.



Meeting a Koala at a wild life sanctuary.



Launched from an 'earth ball'.

Thinking about **EXTENSION?**

Think **POINT THREE**

Lots of people would join Toc H if they were told about it in the right way.

Have you ever considered how you describe Toc H and whether you can honestly say 'I'm in the know'?

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SMALL ADS

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. Telephone: 0296 623911.

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